

Tallaght Drugs Task Force

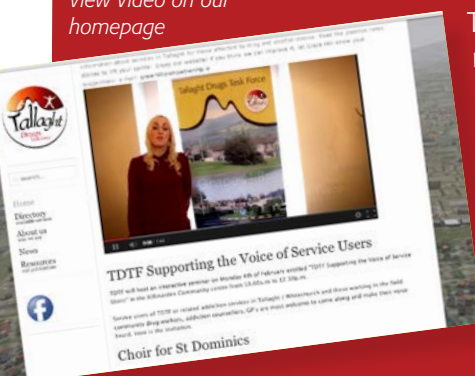


Annual Review 2013

A message from TDTF Chairperson

Welcome to Tallaght Drug Task Force!

View Video on our homepage



This is TDTF's fourth newsletter! Lots of interesting topics from 2013, including success stories; stories to move our hearts, and up-to-date information for substance misusers and those in recovery.

TDTF has hit the limelight! We produced a video on our work, and we were featured on Dublin City TV's Citywide programme (www.dctv.ie). The programme acknowledged Tallaght representatives who attended the Homeless World Cup.

Many congratulations to participants from St. Dominic's Community Response Project who were recipients of a 'Let's Talk About Drugs' National Media Award in September.



A warm welcome to the new people who started in 2013! Ariane Alex volunteers two mornings a week, assisting us with the website and our new Facebook page. Uche Odinkwe is the new, part time Safety Forum worker for Killinarden Estate Management, replacing Patricia Byrne who was in post for 15 years. CARP is growing by leaps and bounds with the new manager, James Kelly.



TDTF Chairperson with James Kelly (Manager CARP) & Robert Dunne, Barnardos.

A big thank you to all who worked very hard in 2013 to achieve the strategic objectives of the Tallaght Drugs Task Force in very difficult times. After much consultation, the Task Force has agreed its prioritisation strategy for 2014. We will continue to try to reduce the impact of funding cuts on frontline services but this proved most difficult in 2013 and we are genuinely concerned for the future of our community project.

Issues of concern included an increase in polydrug use and an increase in the number of reports of intimidation. These issues and others are being dealt with and will receive constant review in the coming year. I welcome the recent announcement by the Minister Alex White TD, on the proposed movement in respect of the review of Drugs Task Forces, which is to commence implementation in January 2014. Once issues such as the inclusion of alcohol in the remit of Local Drugs Task Forces are agreed, Tallaght Drugs Task Force looks forward to progressing the development of our strategic plan 2015 – 2017.

We wish you all a very peaceful and a happy New Year

Eamon Dolan,
TDTF Chairperson



TDTF WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

The TDTF website (www.tallaghtdtf.ie) is regularly updated and provides an information portal for service users and service providers. The searchable Directory of Services gives contact details and other information for a wide range of local and national services which offer help for substance and behavioural addictions, including drugs, alcohol, gambling and eating disorders. If you have concerns for yourself or a family member the website is a useful place to look for projects where you can get advice and support.



Our Facebook page is up and running! Check it out for up to date news and great links: www.facebook.com/tallaghtdrugtaskforce

Please keep sending us your good news and information on events, photos; project activities, training opportunities and job vacancies so that we can post them onto the website. Contact Grace Hill, TDTF Co-ordinator: 01 464 9303 or e mail: grace.hill@sdpartnership.ie.



EMERGING TRENDS IN 2013



Some Board Members, TDTF

Drug and alcohol use in Tallaght and elsewhere in Ireland is growing in prevalence and complexity. 2013 saw a huge increase in the numbers presenting for treatment with a multitude of issues, including heroin, high potency weed, cocaine, prescription drugs, synthetic legal highs, and ever-present alcohol.

HSE drug treatment services in Tallaght remain primarily focused on the methadone protocol for heroin use. Projects are becoming increasingly frustrated by the slow national response to polydrug use. But never to feel defeated, several projects including St Dominics and CARP are expanding their services to welcome and offer support to non-opiate users. See more information in the newsletter.

There is also an increase in intimidation, and TDTF's family support group reported an increase in child to parent violence. This issue was taken up by the National Family Support Network and featured strongly in their annual conference held in October 2013

NEWS THAT MOVES OUR HEARTS

Here are some great stories to remind us that wonderful things are happening, in spite of the difficult times everyone continues to experience.

HOW IS IT TO BE A MAN IN IRELAND TODAY?

MATES Men's group in Kilnamanagh ran a facilitated day in May which encouraged men to come together and share their experiences. The day covered many topics, including:

- How do we find the courage to take the steps we have to take every day as men to deal with the changes that come into our lives?
- Can we sit together and listen to each other and hear how it is to deal with the day in day out struggle, to face the challenge of not knowing how it is going to be in the future?
- Can we be open about how we face into uncertainty and struggle?
- Can we be together and find support among men whose lives are like our own and men whose lives are not like our own?

Here's an account of the day from facilitator, Tony Condren:

"A group of 22 men came together on the day and explored what it means to be a man in today's Ireland. We opened the day by introducing ourselves and sharing a bit about ourselves.

We then looked at a poem by William Stafford called "With Kit Aged Seven at the Beach". The poem is about a father bringing his son to the beach on a stormy day and they watched the stormy

ocean together. The conversation they had as they watched the "ocean performing" is the conversation fathers' need to have with their children and it touched the men present. Each man related what the poem meant to him and the parallels in their lives.

The morning went all too soon and we broke for lunch continuing our conversation at the lunch table. We were joined at the table by a man from Nigeria who had lost his wife some months earlier and he asked could he join in for the afternoon. We welcomed him into the group and when we resumed in the afternoon he told his story.

Though he is from Nigeria he now lives in Ireland. The story he told the group touched each man deeply and moved us into the grief that is ever present in men today. It was a very moving, emotional afternoon, as man after man touched on their own personal grief and the struggle they have today. We were very grateful to our visitor for sharing what he did and allowing us to share our stories with him.

We wound up the day by reading more poetry and hearing stories from our storyteller. Afterwards we returned to our "lives", tired but invigorated by our time together.

MATES is making a difference to men's lives. For more information: 085 1545 929 / 2013mates@gmail.com



POSITIVE CHANGE FOR HIGH SUPPORT FAMILIES

For the second year running JADD showed that high support families can achieve real change in their lives when they are given nurturing support. Twenty two parents and thirty three children, supported by thirteen JADD staff and volunteers, enjoyed a respite weekend at Trabolgan Holiday Village over the August Bank holiday. The aims of the respite break were to help families experience respite from their negative community environments and build positive relationships within the family, and with their peers.

Operating on a third less funds than the year before, JADD managed to make it a hugely successful time, with the following outcomes:

- Children spent time with their parent; played with their friends, enjoyed physical activities and developed their skills (eg swimming) within a safe and nurturing environment.
- Children loved having quality time with their parent, and parents enjoyed getting to know their children better.
- There was a growing self confidence among children and increased confidence (and parental acknowledgement) in their abilities.
- Children were able to overcome fears.
- Children enjoyed three healthy meals a day in which they were sitting down to eat with their parent and other friends.
- Since the respite break, several parents and children reported they are spending more time together and enjoying new activities in Tallaght, such as swimming.
- Parents were able to relax and enjoy being with other adults and children in an environment that was conducive and supportive to recovery.



JADD staff before heading to Trabolgan



All aboard



Echo Feature

- Several parents reported they learned a great deal about themselves and their children during the course of the break.
- Parents developed greater understanding and empathy towards their children.
- As a result of the break, several parents wish to get more involved with the activities that JADD offers to support their recovery.

SUPPORT FOR COCAINE USERS



The Evening Project, formerly known as the Tallaght Cocaine Project, has been open since 2004 and now operates solely from St Dominics CRP. The project was evaluated in 2013, and the findings showed the project led to significant outcomes for people who attended. For many, it was their first point of contact with a drug treatment service and significant numbers were able to become drug-free after their first one-to-one session.

ACHIEVING DREAMS

Tommy Kinsella, a member of the Family Support group in St. Dominic's CRP proved that TDTF's education supports work!

Tommy graduated with a distinction from the CAST programme in 2011-2012 and benefitted greatly from learning how addiction affects the whole community.

The family support group and the team in St. Dominic's encouraged Tommy to continue his studies. With financial assistance from TDTF and St. Dominic's, he secured a place on the UCD Diploma in Community Drug Work. He was apprehensive: "I thought my age would go against me but it helped me, I felt like the daddy of the class". He was awarded his Diploma in November. We are very proud of his achievements!

Several people at SWAN also achieved education dreams in 2013. Congratulations to Lorraine Kelly who completed her BA in counselling and psychotherapy. Eamonn White and Fiona Murphy who completed their first year of addiction studies at UCD, supported by TUS. Volunteers, Liz and Audrey, were awarded their Masters in Reiki.

SWAN and St Aengus are awaiting a contract from DSP for an agreed alignment of a CE project. This is a genuine alignment between a treatment project and a family support project where Swan will gain twelve CE places to continue its service. The aim is to provide training to the 12 CE participants so they can work as project workers in any of the larger projects around Ireland.

Quotations from people participating in the Evening Project

"I saw the telephone number of the Evening Project on a leaflet in the hospital where I was visiting someone. I called and the key worker told me to come straight away. If I'd had to wait I wouldn't have made it. I came here and broke down. I've been drug free ever since"

"I grew up in gangs. Now, I'm working"

"I was selling drugs in a big way. It got very hard going, always looking over my shoulder to see who might want to kill me or who I might owe money to. I started taking cocaine every day, all day, lost touch with my family and kids. I was at death's door. I'd go on binges that would last for months, and then come home to the family. My life was under threat, my father's life was under threat. Towards the end I was paranoid all the time".



Members from the family support group in St. Dominic's



SWAN group with Mayor Looney



Tommy Kinsella, member of St. Dominic's Family Support Project – with his Diploma in Community Drug Work from UCD



TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION

2013 saw lots of good supports for people who want to address their substance use, and for those in recovery.



Members of CARP family Support Group pictured with group facilitator Sheila O'Brien

JADD's Positive Intervention Drug Free Programme started last April, a personal development course to build skills for life, further education and employment. JADD first ran this FETAC L4 course in 2011, and it led to many participants achieving places in college, jobs and CE schemes.

TRP ran another successful four day residential module in June in An Tobar, Co Meath, based on the theme of 'Life Stories'. Eight participants engaged in workshops, process groups, written work and stress management techniques, with the primary focus on self care. It was a great time of learning. Some participants acquired drug free status and others embarked on detoxification for the first time. Well done, all.

Non-opiate projects

2013 saw a big increase in targeted projects for people who use cocaine and cannabis, rather than heroin.

The Evening Project.

This successful project delivered by highly skilled staff offers flexible treatment options for cocaine users, including one-to-one counselling, group work and holistic therapies. It has an open door policy, open five days a week, including two evenings. Contact 01 462 0624.

CARP's new cannabis programme runs 2-4pm every Wednesday over 12 weeks. It's a peer support group, following the Community Reinforcement Approach, for people aged 16-25 years old. Clients are offered assessment, a weekly support group and access to a key worker. The aim is to help participants stop or reduce their use. The first programme in 2012 was successful with eight regular participants, and five participants who graduated. The second programme started in November. For more information, contact CARP: 01 462 6033 / jameskelly@carp.ie



Some representatives from KDPPG / WRENS, pictured at the Christmas Tree event in County Hall

CARP also set up a pilot **clinic for Polish speaking people** in 2013, in partnership with the Centre for Addiction Counselling (CKU). A Polish support worker ran the clinic every second Thursday from the beginning of November to offer support to Polish people concerned about their drug use. For more information and details of clinic dates in 2014, contact CARP: t: 01 462 6033

e: jameskelly@carp.ie,
or CKU: t: 086 086 1018
e: info@ckudublin.org

TRP linked with **SOS (Suicide or Survive)** in 2013, as part of their Eden Programme, which is a six month therapeutic group facilitated by two qualified group therapists for people who have attempted suicide or have suicidal thoughts. It provides a supportive weekly group environment over a six month period with up to twelve participants per programme. Contact: 087 7596116 or paula@suicideorsurvive.ie.

TDTF, CARP, WRENS, TPP, Barnardos, SDCC, Restorative Justice and Probation Welfare services were all involved in a pilot initiative to **help women with a history of offending** last year. The project, called Anchor, is a women-only centre open three mornings a week in Tallaght Village. It offers keyworking to support women with their individual needs, goals and individual care plans.



TRP residential 2013

Needle Exchange Clinic Times Tallaght A Harm Reduction Initiative

DAY	JADD	ST. AENGUS	CARP
Monday	9.30am - 1.30 <i>Emergencies 1.30pm-5pm</i>	10.30am - 2.00pm	9am - 5pm
Tuesday	9.30am - 1.30pm <i>Emergencies 1.30pm-5pm</i>	10.30am - 1.30pm 5.00pm - 6.00pm	9am - 5pm
Wednesday	9.30am - 1.30pm 5.00pm - 6.30pm <i>Emergencies 1.30pm-5pm</i>	10.30am - 4.00pm	9am - 5pm
Thursday	9.30am - 1.30pm 5.00pm - 6.45pm <i>Emergencies 1.30pm-5pm</i>	10.30 - 1.30pm	9am - 7.30pm
Friday	9.30am - 1.30pm 5.00pm - 6.30pm <i>Emergencies 1.30pm-5pm</i>	10.30am - 1.00pm	9am - 5pm
Saturday	9.30am - 11.30am		
Sunday	30am - 11.00am		



SERVICE USERS

The DPU, and the NDST before them, emphasised the involvement of service users under all Task Force pillars (NDST Action 42). We have always encouraged service user participation in TDTF activities and the Service Users Forum continued to be active in 2013. TDTF responded further to the NDST requirement by holding a discussion meeting last September to identify and agree what further actions should be taken.

There were several recommendations arising from the workshop in September, including a service user seminar. This will take place on February 4th 2014. For more information, contact Grainne O'Kane: 01 464 9308 / grainne.okane@sdcpartnership.ie.

Other recommendations included:

- Subgroups to facilitate and include the voice of service users
- Explore a consultation space facilitated three times per year
- Invite and ensure the inclusion of AA, NA and CA
- Include a comments and suggestions feature on the website specifically to invite the views of service users.



FAMILY SUPPORT

A new Family Support group is running in CARP, which started in 2013 with a core attendance of four people. It offers a safe, peer-led setting where families can come together and share their experiences of living with drug use. CARP also offers a series of workshops specifically designed to help family members deal with a loved one's addiction. For more information, call CARP 01 462 6033/82.

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS IN TALLAGHT

ORGANISATION	TYPE	VENUE	OCCURANCE	CONTACT
St. Dominic's Community Response Project	Peer Led Group	St. Dominic's Contact Centre, Millbrook, Tallaght	Tuesday 7.30pm	Victor Herbert Ph. 4620624
Tallaght Rehabilitation Project	One to One	Kiltalown House, Jobstown	Upon request	Jamie Byrne Tel: 459 7705
JADD	Facilitated Group	Fortunestown Way, Jobstown	Tuesday 7.30pm	Rose Dodson Tel: 01 459 7756
KDPPG / WRENS	Facilitated Women's Group	Killinarden Enterprise Centre	Tuesday 10am – 1pm	Alice Murray Tel: 01 466 4262
MATES (Men's Family Support)	Peer Led Group	Kilnamanagh Community Centre	Thursday 7.30pm	Tony Condren Tel: 085 724 8306
SWAN	Peer led or facilitated groups & one to one available	St. Anne's Resource Centre Fettercairn	Wednesday 7pm Friday mornings On request	Eamonn White Tel: 01 462 7999 086 867 2320
BASP	One to one	Brookfield Community Centre	Upon request	Ann Carey Tel: 01 414 7909
WASP Whitechurch	Facilitated	Scoil Mhuire Ballyboden, Whitechurch	Monday 7pm	Cathy Murray Tel: 087 9641588
St. Aengus Community Action Group	One to one	Castle Tymon Green, Tymon, Tallaght.	Upon request 10am – 1pm daily	Mick Duff Tel: 01 461 0239
CARP Killinarden	Facilitated	CARP Killinarden	Monday 8pm – 9pm	Sheila O'Brien Tel: 01 462 6033

Tallaght made a large representation at the Family Support Network (FSN) annual conference in October with the help of bursaries from TDTF. Training workshops and holistic therapies featured as key components of the conference. TDEI facilitated a workshop on Drug Prevention that Works and Swan Family Support volunteered therapists to provide holistic therapies for family members. The conference was a huge success allowing family members to gain new information while having the chance to relax.

TDTF continued to respond to the growing challenge of intimidation in Tallaght's communities. Following the important progress of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in 2012, a training seminar was held last April in partnership with the National Family Support Network, An Garda Síochána and the South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee. It was open to all services working with drug users and their families in the South Dublin County area. An awareness campaign was then launched to urge people to report incidents of intimidation. The JPC continues to meet regularly.



The annual Hope & Remembrance Service is a highly anticipated date in the TDTF calendar of events. In 2013, the service continued to focus on the impacts of drug misuse on every member of the family as well as the wider community. WASP (Whitechurch Addiction Support Program) was the host. The theme for the service was: Live Every Day - Love Every Moment - Laugh beyond Words.

Many people attended to commemorate those who have died from drug misuse, while remaining hopeful for the future and supporting one another. Minister Alex White TD, who has responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy, attended and music was provided by Paul Brady.

In 2014, the family support sub-group have plans to review and rejuvenate the annual service.

In December Dermot Looney, Mayor of South Dublin County, hosted an event to mark the work of TDTF. Each project in the TDTF area was given the opportunity to place a symbol on the Christmas tree in County Hall to represent their service users past and present. This moving event provided the setting for everyone to remember those who have been lost in 2013 as a result of substance misuse, and to acknowledge how difficult Christmas can be for families affected by addiction.

TDTF have helped to raise awareness of the impact of addiction on families in other creative ways. In April, ARTSI (Artists Responding to Social Issues) brought their new production "WASTED" to Tallaght, thanks to support from TDTF. The story is based on the real-life experiences of the cast and crew, and deals with the fall-out from drug addiction and the impact that addiction can have on all members of a family. After each performance there was facilitated discussion with the audience to explore issues and encourage more people to access support. It was very well attended and appreciated by all.



Representatives from WASP & TDTF with Minister White, Tallaght H & R Service 2013



Mayor of South Dublin County, Dermot Looney with TDTF Chair and Coordinator



TDTF Tree of hope and remembrance in County Hall



Performance of drama, WASTED, April 2013



PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

We continued to raise awareness about the devastating effect of addiction in 2013 with new and ongoing initiatives.

Helping teenagers make good choices about drugs and alcohol.

Drugs and alcohol can be a worry for parents who wonder how to protect their children from substance misuse. Many young people will never misuse drugs, while others will use them, no matter what we do. However, studies show that parents **can** intervene effectively to minimise the risk.

Tallaght Drug Education Initiative (TDEI) ran *Choices* throughout 2013 which helps parents learn how to boost their children's capacity to make healthy decisions about drugs, alcohol, smoking and other pressures. Parents could choose to attend over three mornings; three evenings, or on one day. It was free of charge thanks to funding from TDTF. The course covered:

- Drug prevention, what works and what parents can do
- How to build self-esteem and good decision making skills in children
- How parents can help children stand up to peer pressure
- How to use open communication skills with children

124 parents/guardians participated. The feedback was very positive: parents felt empowered to get involved in drug education and prevention by increasing the protective factors in their children's lives.

Another great success was the Community Addiction Studies Tallaght (CAST) training which was delivered for the first time by St Dominics Community Response Project and Partas. The findings of an external evaluation showed that CAST complied with FETAC requirements and was excellent with respect to learning outcomes for participants. Participants reported their listening skills improved; their attitudes changed, and they became more empathic and understanding of people caught in addiction.

The programme provided opportunities for self reflection and insight into personal, family and community issues. Participants learned about the range of services and treatment options available in Tallaght, and it opened opportunities for further education and employment. The CAST course is of undoubted value for individuals, TDTF and the Tallaght community. The 2013/2014 course is now underway and will conclude in May 2014.

Well done, St Dominics!

TDEI delivered a thirty-hour training on 'Best Practice in Drug Education: Drug Prevention that works'. The training was based on the Morgan report (2001) which showed that drug education can reduce the likelihood of substance misuse. The training covered best practice in drug prevention; what works and what doesn't, and how to apply this in practice.

TDEI also delivered the Putting the Pieces Together training. The training for staff and volunteers, came with a manual with all the information needed to run drug education programmes.

TDEI also ran the Foróige Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life programme. Ten young people graduated in Galway in October and two completed an advanced level at an international week-long conference in NUI Maynooth.

Foróige Tallaght Youth Forum worked on an outreach consultation throughout 2013 to explore the issues that young people face in the Tallaght area. Outreach meant the views of hard to reach young people were included. A film has been produced of the findings which will be presented to local decision makers in January.



CAST participant Victor Herbert addresses graduation in October 2013



Strengthening Families Programme trainees receiving their certs from Eamon Dolan (TDTF Chairperson), May 2013



Some graduates, CAST 2013



SFP graduation 2013

TDEI offered the fourteen-week Strengthening Families programme again last year. It's run as an inter-agency initiative between twelve projects. JADD hosts the programme. The Strengthening Families programme has been rolled out in Tallaght on an annual basis since 2008. In 2013, eleven families graduated, all of whom felt the programme was hugely beneficial.

Foróige also ran a Strengthening Families training programme and sixteen people graduated, all of whom work and volunteer in the Tallaght area.



GOVERNANCE

Staff across TDTF projects stayed busy in 2013, increasing their skills and knowledge.

Meitheal ran a course on committee skills training following requests from various TDTF community reps and sub-group members. The course covered the role of committee members; how to run effective committees; community development values; active listening and participation, and empowerment and equality.

TDTF also ran training in community representation, which was designed to support individuals who want to sit on TDTF sub groups. It was delivered as a preparatory course for accredited training.

Participants learned how much we don't listen in our daily lives! Topics included principles and practice of community development, including working for change; decision making; understanding and developing community analysis, and how to gather information and put it to meaningful use.

TDTF also arranged for the Wheel to deliver training on the Governance Code. There are several benefits to signing up to the Code, which is a statement of an organisation's good practice. Check out: www.governance.ie.

In May, the National Drug Rehabilitation Strategy group ran a half day seminar in Tallaght on the NDRIC protocols. The protocols aim to ensure that clients are able to access the services they need to

address their addiction issues. The protocols emphasise interagency working between drug treatment, mental health, domestic violence, family, and housing services. The seminar provided a forum for discussing the frameworks of shared care and case management. The seminar also sought to identify gaps and barriers to progression on both a local and national level.

Introducing the new NDRIC protocols

TDTF have signed up to the new NDRIC protocols. 120 participants across thirty services participated in the seminar. Services that signed up to implement the protocols are Focus Ireland, HSE Addiction Services, Barnardos, TRP, CARP, St Dominics Community Response Project, BASP, Cuan Alann, Saoirse Womens Refuge, Tallaght Travellers CDP, and Tallaght-wide Aftercare Service.

As part of the implementation process TDTF's Treatment & Rehabilitation subgroup has prioritised two areas: housing and female offenders.

TDTF has already made significant achievements towards delivery of the protocols. These include:

- TDTF participates on the SDCC Homeless Forum, with a view to work with all agencies engaged in housing related issues
- TDTF was the driver of Anchor, a multi agency initiative which was designed and developed short term to engage female offenders in Tallaght.
- TDTF is committed to the role and voice of service users in the design and delivery of services and implementation of any new measures. It has hosted a series of workshops to explore how best to support service user participation both in addiction services and as part of the Task Force.

TDTF was one of the first in the country to have a Tallaght wide database system to record, evidence and gather information. Electronic recording is now mandatory in Ireland, and TDTF welcomes the new central information system. However, they emphasise that all service users must be given guidance on information consent and information release.



Governance training "funded" by TDTF, provided by the WHEEL

HEALTH PROMOTION

Tallaght Sexual Health Forum is up and running and met regularly during 2013, chaired by Petrina Egan who is the sexual health project worker with Foróige. The Forum finalised their terms of reference and future priorities during the year.

It has always been the goal of the TDTF's Health Promotion sub-committee to obtain a mobile sexual health screening service for service users in Tallaght. Following many discussions about it last year, we really hope to make this service a reality for clients in 2014! Many thanks to Wynn Nelson, HSE Outreach Worker, for her efforts in this regard



SPREADING THE WORD

The TDTF annual newsletter was published and circulated in early 2013, and we now have our own Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tallaghtdrugtaskforce.

In September, TDTF ran an information stall at the Tallaght Health Fair, which was organised by the RAPID Health Strategy Group. Catherine Heaney from the Fettercairn Community Health Project said, 'It was fantastic to see so many organisations with so much information all gathered in one place and there was such a great atmosphere on the day. We have had very positive feedback from those who attended and accessed the information and services available, which is a testimony to all the organisations and individuals who gave their time to be there. Again, a huge thank you to everyone who attended. We look forward to Tallaght Health Fair 2014.'



Tallaght Health Fair 2013: SWAN Project & friends



FUNDING



Pat Daly, Manager of TRP give Eamon Dolan & Minister White a tour of the premises at Kiltalown House



Minister White with some members of TDTF in TRP

In 2013 TDTF was able to provide a number of once off small grants to struggling community drug projects. TDTF allocated €23,000 for new & existing initiatives and €5,500 in once off small capital grants.

The Education / Training Bursary Fund also continued. This grant supports people in recovery, family members of substance misusers, and frontline workers who wish to further their education and careers. TDTF allocated €39,500 to 36 individuals. Successful applicants were primarily service users who are the priority group for this fund.

In February, TDTF Board members met with Minister Alex White to highlight the impact of budget restrictions on community projects, and to discuss proposed changes to geographical boundaries of some Task Force areas, and the introduction of alcohol into LDTF strategies, and budgets. Towards the end of the year Minister White provided feedback on these topics. He explained that several measures will be implemented in early 2014 related to alcohol, including:

- Government has approved drafting of the Public Health (alcohol) bill.
- Half day conference to be held in January to assess the current status of the National Drugs Strategy, and integration of alcohol in the work of Drug and Alcohol Task Forces.
- The National Co-ordinating Committee on Drugs and Alcohol will be established to ensure more effective co-ordination between statutory services and the community/voluntary sector.
- The Oversight Forum on Drugs will meet in January and representatives of the local and regional alcohol and drug task forces will be invited to participate.

The Minister confirmed a cut of 3% to Task Force interim funding which TDTF will manage as best they can within the context of their prioritisation strategy for 2014. He also said that all funding in 2014 will be channelled through the HSE to provide a single accountability framework.

Members of TDTF Executive Committee and the TDTF Coordinator met with European MEP for Dublin, Emer Costello in November to learn about funding opportunities from the European Social Fund. Ideas for sharing examples of good working practices across Europe were also discussed.



Some members of TDTF Executive Committee with MEP for Dublin, Emer Costello



PROJECT FUNDRAISING

2013 saw projects run several fundraising initiatives in a determined drive to maintain the quality of their services in the face of funding cuts. Here are some of them:-

In September, JADD ran a Golf Classic to raise much needed funds for their childcare department. The event took place at Slade Valley golf club with 16 teams participating in a four ball competition. The feedback was very positive and everyone enjoyed the day. The event was so successful JADD have decided to run it again in 2014 with more teams.

In October, TRP and Tallaght-Wide Aftercare Service ran a 5-a-side blitz soccer event. Big thanks to Jim Crawford, Darren Doyle and Robbie De Courcy from the FAI who acted as referees. There was a huge turnout for the event from the twelve teams and their supporters. Congratulations to the winning team Chrysalis, who received their trophy at a presentation the following week. Runners up also received trophies and there were yet more trophies for player of the tournament and best goal scored.

The Glenasmole Drama group raised funds for TRP by donating all proceeds from their production of the play, *The Field*, by John B. Keane which was held in St Anne's GAA club last November. All proceeds went to TRP. A raffle was held during the interval and there were spot prizes on the night. The management, staff and participants of TRP would like to thank Glenasmole Drama Group for their time, support and generosity to our organisation.

In November, Foróige held a dancing event in the Red Cow Hotel, called Strictly Foróige! Mick Duff, TDTF Vice Chairperson, was one of the star performers. The event was a huge success and managed to raise much needed funds. The event would not have been possible without the 32 magnificent dancers who volunteered to perform in the show, all of whom are connected to Tallaght through Foróige, local schools as well as local businesses. They put a huge amount of time, effort and energy into the show.



The event was a sell out on the night. It was a fantastic night for all who attended and participated. Congratulations to our winning couple on the night, Audrey Fitzpatrick and Benny Cullen.

MORE GOOD NEWS

TRP held their annual Family Day in August. The theme was Sports Day and TRP service users and their children, parents and grandparents, along with staff and volunteers all joined in the fun. There were plenty of races and activities, including a soccer skills session facilitated by FAI coaching staff. The day was rounded off by a delicious lunch from Dominos Pizza, and all the children were presented with medals.

In December, TRP held a Special Awards Night for participants and their families to recognise and understand the importance of certified and accredited training and the benefits it can bring. Certificates for both educational and therapeutic training were awarded in recognition of the work completed by all. Speeches were given by participants from the Rehabilitation Day Programme and the Tallaght-wide Aftercare Service. After the presentation everyone adjourned to the Aftercare facility for some light refreshments and entertainment of karaoke and music.

St Dominics CRP held carols on the 20th December between 6-8pm in the Square in Tallaght. It was a lovely festive community event and provided St Dominics with an opportunity to raise funds. The Manager of St Dominics said how fortunate they were to have a choir sing carols on the evening.



TRP Family Day 2013

Want to contact Tallaght Drugs Task Force?

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